

Government 97
Week #2 Lesson Plan
Spring 2015

General Plan for Section

- I. Introductory section activities that we missed last week (go around the room to do introductions, go over section policies, etc.).
- II. Activity on page #2 (taken from Chiara's lesson plan from last year)
- III. Discussion of the activity and the questions below

Discussion Questions

1. What are the main attributes of Constant's "modern" and "ancient" liberty?
 - a. If "modern" liberty is freedom *from* government, is there a necessary connection between liberty and democracy? Might the two, in fact, be in conflict?
2. Constant, Aristotle, and the Federalists all talk about the possibility that democracy/popular governance can become tyrannical or corrupt. What protections do they each recommend? Do you think they'll be successful? (Mapping this out in a chart on the board might help.)
 - a. How does their concern with tyranny connect with the emphasis they place on the rule of law?
 - b. What other structural protections against tyranny and corruption could we implement in a democracy? (Encourage students to think about what else is in the US Constitution.)
3. Do you agree with Aristotle's claim that the government has an important role to play in shaping its citizens? Or does this interfere with "modern" liberty?
 - a. What's Constant's answer to this question? How does it fit into his argument about combining the two forms of liberty in contemporary democracies?
4. What, according to Aristotle, are the advantages and disadvantages of "rule by the many" (what we'd call "democracy", what he calls "constitutional government")? How does democracy/constitutional government compare to the other possible forms of government? (Again, a chart might be helpful).
 - a. Tocqueville, while praising democracy, also mentions some of its downsides. What are those, in his view? Do you agree with him that democracies can't promote greatness?
5. Both Tocqueville and the Federalists talk about the virtues of a federal government. Why do they view it as so advantageous? What is the difference between a federal and national government?
 - a. How does federalism address the concern about factions raised in *Federalist 10*?

Build your own democracy!

We are going to break up into groups of 3-4 to design our ideal government.

You have to choose one of the options for each of these 10 choices. Make sure you are able to justify and defend your choice, make precise references to the text and the authors who support your choice (when possible), and check that the various choices are not in contradiction to each other. This means that you might have to prioritize some outcomes over others.

To justify these 10 choices, you will have to use this week's readings and lecture, last week's ones, and your brain:

1. Legislators selected through elections **OR** by lottery
2. Organized political parties **OR** individual legislators
3. A few decision on policies (e.g., budgets, taxes) made through internet voting **OR** *all* decisions left to legislators
4. Universal suffrage and/or active electorate **OR** limited suffrage/active electorate based on educational criteria
5. Mandatory military service **OR** voluntary military service
6. Secret votes (on legislation and/or policy preference) **OR** non-secret ballot/votes
7. In the legislatures, quotas for underrepresented groups (e.g., women, ethnic minorities) **OR** no quotas
8. A unicameral federal legislature reflecting “one person, one vote” **OR** a bicameral legislature where one house has two representatives from each state regardless of the states’ populations
9. Term limits on all elected positions **OR** no term limits
10. Unlimited spending in political campaigns **OR** laws limiting expenditures